

Media release

18 January 2023

Public feedback sought on the proposal to alter the Whangārei suburb name of Kamo to Te Kamo

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa is proposing to change the unofficial name Kamo to Te Kamo for the suburb approximately 5km north-northwest of Whangārei CBD.

Local hapū have shared that Te Kamo was a resident rangatira (chief) and tupuna (ancestor) in the Te Kamo environs. He worked hard to ensure the village of Te Kamo and its people were safe and lived comfortably, guiding the hapū alongside other rangatira in the area.

The proposal to alter the suburb name seeks to recognise Te Kamo as the prominent leader he was in the area, with the correct spelling and to honour the history of the region.

In Māori, 'Te' is part of the name, just as 'O' is part of O'Neill in English. Including the definite article 'Te' in Māori personal names, whether for first or surnames, elevates the status of a person and respects their importance. Significant tūpuna often have 'Te' at the start of their names, for example, Te Puni, Te Kooti. So, while it may appear to be a small change, it is important to get right.

The Board recognises that this is however a significant change for the community and invites feedback.

The community is also invited to comment on the most appropriate boundaries of the suburb.

The proposal is open for public submissions from 18 January 2023 to 18 April 2023. The Board will then consider feedback at its mid-year hui.

Anyone can make a submission supporting or objecting to the name change, either [online](#) or by emailing nzgbsubmissions@linz.govt.nz.

Submissions can also be made by letter to the Secretary of the New Zealand Geographic Board, c/o Land Information New Zealand, PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145.

About Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board is an independent statutory body. The Board is supported and administered by Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand.

Anyone may propose a name for a geographic feature or place. The Board uses naming guidelines and standards and follows international good practice to help it to make robust and enduring decisions.

The Board recognises the importance of pronunciation in te reo and macrons support both pronunciation and meaning. Therefore, the Board follows the orthographic conventions of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission).

If the Board doesn't agree with a proposal, it may consult on a different proposal considered to be more appropriate.

The Board consults with relevant agencies, local communities, stakeholders and iwi. It researches all proposals and encourages the use of original Māori place names. Official place names must be used in all official documents like road signs, maps, websites, databases and publications for tourists.

Anyone can [make a submission](#) on proposed place names, either [online](#) or by emailing nzgbsubmissions@linz.govt.nz, or by mailing directly to the Board's Secretariat.

Official and recorded place names can be searched in the [New Zealand Gazetteer](#).

Media enquiries:

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